

Methodology and Interpretation of Data

Methodology

Data was collected from state and federal agencies, from agency records, interviews and census data, and reflects the data available.

Data Sources

The data reported in the *2017 Child Care Supply Demand Report* was collected from state and federal agencies and compiled by staff at Child Care Aware® of Kansas. Data sources utilized for this report include: Child Care Aware® of America; Child Care Aware® of Kansas; U.S. Census Bureau, Kids Count; Kansas Department for Children and Families; and Kansas Department of Health and Environment.

Questions about the data sources should be directed to Child Care Aware® of Kansas 855-750-3343.

Presentation of Data

Data was presented to allow for multiple means of assessing the status of child care in Kansas.

Numbers presented reflect the actual number. For example, a value of 214 for Preschool indicates that there are 214 programs licensed in Kansas as Preschools at the time the data was collected. Some actual number data represents self-reported numbers of those voluntarily providing data. For example, a value of 4,954 for Desired Capacity for Preschools indicates, of those Preschools providing data, they are willing to enroll a total of 4,954 children in their Preschool programs.

Percentages presented reflect the portion of the population that displays a given characteristic. For example, 63% of children with all available parents in the workforce indicates that out of the number of children in a specific county, 63% of the children have all available parents in the workforce.

How to use the Report and County Profiles

- *Obtain information about the State.* Access information about Kansas that defines statistics affecting child care.
- *Obtain information on a specific County.* Access individual county information that defines county statistics affecting child care.

Notes

Although the numbers and percentages reported in the *2017 Child Care Supply Demand Report* can provide useful information that allows counties to determine the status of child care in their locales, please note the following:

Comparing a specific county to other locales. When comparing a specific county to other locales (e.g., your county to another), it is important to ensure that each locale is comparable.

Small counties. Constructing county-level percentages that fully portray a situation is difficult for smaller counties. Because of the way percentages are calculated, smaller-populated counties are more susceptible to exaggerated percentages. For example, if a county reports 2 of the 5 facilities provide special needs child care, the county would show that 40% of the facilities provide special needs care. Although accurate and useful (since it represents the portion of facilities that provide special needs care and can be used for cross-site comparisons), the magnitude makes the percentage look dramatic. Because of this issue, it is important for smaller counties to keep in mind what the portion actually represents – in the case of this example, two facilities.

Timeliness of data. Although the most current data available is reported, the years reflected by the data vary (some data reflect 2011-2015 Census estimates, whereas other data reflect 2010 Census totals or actual data pulled from WLS during a specific time period).

License Exempt Facilities: License exempt facilities, while exempt from KDHE in regard to a predetermined licensed capacity, offer preschool and/or Head Start services to families. License exempt facilities will report data for Desired Capacity while excluding data for Licensed Capacity, resulting in a higher number of Desired Capacity slots than Licensed Capacity slots in some counties.

Definitions

- **Desired Capacity:** the number of children that a facility is willing to accept.
- **Licensed Capacity:** the number of children a facility is allowed to provide care for as indicated by their Kansas Department of Health & Environment (KDHE) Child Care License.
- **Extent Child Care Openings Potentially Meet Demand:** Is determined by dividing the Desired Capacity by the number of children potentially needing care. The percentage will be more than 100% when the number of children potentially needing care is equal to or less than the number of Desired Capacity slots self-reported by child care programs.
- **Number of Children Potentially Needing Care:** the number of children under age 6 multiplied by the percentage of children with all parents in the workforce.

- ***Number of Children Under 6 Years of Age:*** the number of children as reported in 2010 Census Report PCT12.
- ***Percentage of Children with all Parents in the Workforce:*** the percentage of children as reported in 2011-2015 Census Estimates Report DP03
- ***Number of Children Under Age 6 Receiving Child Care Subsidy:*** the number of children under age 6 receiving child care subsidy includes children enrolled in: Licensed Child Care Center, Licensed Family Child Care Home, Licensed Group Child Care Home, Out of Home Relative Provider, and In-Home Relative Provider.